

I want to lend my voice to the other XM subscribers that have commented on this issue. The current state of broadcast radio in this nation is atrocious. Much of this is due to physical limitations, and the commercial considerations that drive a lot of the conglomerated media outlets that pass for a free press in our cities. I have been an XM subscriber for almost 2 years now, and the service is head and shoulders above anything I have ever heard on broadcast radio. Of course, at present, I live in a rural market - there aren't many choices of stations to listen to in West Virginia - and with the mountainous terrain there is virtually no other choice but to resort to satellite for an uninterrupted signal. But, and here is the important thing, unlike any other radio station I have ever listened to, XM has gotten better over the course of time. They have reduced the number of commercials. They have improved their service by adding new and varied stations of music, and new outlets for news. They have added local weather and traffic for some markets. Here's the thing - if I had the choice to turn off my XM in order to get a regular broadcast traffic report - I WOULD NOT DO IT. There is no competition. Why turn off XM to listen to a bunch of commercials and other garbage I don't want to hear? I simply would not do it. There is no reason to prevent XM from carrying information which its listeners will not go elsewhere to get. Broadcast Radio is yesterday's news and yesterday's technology. Don't limit today's and tomorrow's technology unnecessarily. Allow XM to keep weather, traffic, and to develop other services, and let the free market decide which technology will survive.